

REMARKS

1. In the above-captioned Final Office Action, claims 1, 3-9, 11, 12, 14-16, and 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of Nieuwstadt et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,397,587). Claims 2, 10, 13, and 17 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter. These rejections are traversed and reconsideration is hereby respectfully requested.

2. Claims 1, 3-9, 11, 12, 14-16, and 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of Nieuwstadt.

Nieuwstadt teaches measuring a pressure in an intake system of an engine and having a filter in the exhaust system. Nieuwstadt does not teach nor imply obtaining a measured fluid pressure *which is in direct fluid communication with a fluid filter in an internal combustion engine*, as stated in independent claims 1 and 7 as amended above, nor does he teach or imply having a pressure sensor arranged and constructed to measure a pressure of a fluid *which is in direct fluid communication with a filter for the fluid of an internal combustion engine*, as stated in independent claim 14 as amended above.

Hence, there are elements in independent claims 1, 7, and 14 are not taught nor are obvious in any combination with the teachings of Nieuwstadt. Therefore, independent claims 1, 7, and 14 are allowable in view of Nieuwstadt.

Furthermore, claims 3-6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 15, 16, and 18-20 are dependent upon an independent claim that is shown to be allowable. For all these reasons, the dependent claims are themselves allowable.

3. The telephone interview with the Examiner on August 7, 2006 is appreciated. The subject matter of claims 1, 7, and 14 was discussed, but no agreement was reached.

4. No new subject matter is introduced by the amendments to the above claims. The above amendment and response is necessary because it places the application in condition for allowance and was not previously entered because the Examiner first brought the grounds of rejection in the Final Office Action.

5. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone or facsimile if the Examiner believes that such a communication may advance the prosecution of the present application. Notice of allowance of claims 1-20 is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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